



ALERT

News from the UFMCC on AIDS Legislation, Education, Research and Treatment.

UFMCC AIDS MINISTRY CONFERENCE IN HOUSTON

Samaritan College, the National Association of Persons with AIDS, the National Lesbian and Gay Health Foundation, the Pride Institute, and the National Coalition of Black Gays and Lesbians sponsored a conference on AIDS ministry at the Westin Galleria Hotel in Houston, TX, January 15-17, 1988. With just over one hundred people registered it was considered to be a very successful conference. The feedback in the evaluation session indicated that everyone who attended was genuinely satisfied with the conference.

Keynote speakers at the opening brunch were Rev. Elder Troy D. Perry, Ms. Ellen Ratner, Rev. Renee McCoy, and Rev. Steve Pieters. The speakers stimulated table group sharing about racism and homophobia in the AIDS crisis, as well as pastoral care for persons affected by AIDS, and theological and spiritual concerns of their caregivers.

Dr. Gary McClelland delivered a medical update, which informed people of advances in treatment and in knowledge about the syndrome. Stephen Beck, Executive Director of the National Association of Persons with AIDS, and two leaders of the Houston Coalition of People with AIDS, led a stimulating discussion of "what people with AIDS need." They stressed self-empowerment and hope as vital ingredients for people living with AIDS.

Workshops included "Denominational Dynamics in the AIDS Crisis", led by Rev. Elder Don Eastman, Rev. Sandy Robinson, both UFMCC Clergy, and Rev. Tom Reinhart-Marean, from the United Methodist Church and the Director of Religious Resources at AIDS Project Los Angeles. In addition to ecumenical concerns, homophobia and heterophobia in the AIDS crisis were discussed at length. "AIDS in the Black Community" was led by Rev. Renee McCoy, Director of the National Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gay Men, and Rev. Carl Bean, Founder and Executive Director of the Minority AIDS Project in Los Angeles.

Other workshops included "The Impact of Internalized Homophobia," "Addiction, Recovery, and AIDS," "Models of AIDS Ministry for the Local Church," "The Impact of AIDS on Congregational Dynamics," "The Theological Impact of AIDS," "Counseling with the PWA: An Introduction for Those New to AIDS Ministry," and "Self-Care and Support for AIDS Ministers."

FEBRUARY, 1988

In a three hour session of the full Conference, Rev. Steve Pieters and Rev. Karen Ziegler led a discussion of Pastoral Care for persons affected by AIDS. Participants explored a variety of practical and theological concerns raised by AIDS ministry, and brainstormed ways of seeing God's grace in AIDS, and giving hope to the newly diagnosed, the terminally ill, and those who are grieving.

Caitlin Ryan lectured Sunday morning on "AIDS and Public Policy." She stressed that the major battles in the U.S. response to AIDS are happening on the state level of government, although the Federal Government is feeling more and more pressure to respond.

Table group sharing over meals provided participants repeated opportunities to network and discuss their local situations, and share strategies for responding to the AIDS crisis. Worship services were led by the two Houston MCC's, MCC New Freedom in Christ, and MCC of the Resurrection.

The Evaluation session revealed that participants were extremely pleased with the conference, both with the content and the organization. It was obvious that people from all the denominations represented were hungry for information and the chance to share and learn about ministry in the AIDS crisis, and this conference amply provided that opportunity.

VISUALIZATION CAN INCREASE BLOOD CELLS

In a study conducted by Dr. Jeanne Achterberg of the University of Texas Health Science Center in Dallas and music therapist Mark Rider of Southern Methodist University, it was shown that mental imagery can trigger an increase in disease-fighting cells. It was also shown that music can enhance this effect.

Thirty volunteers listened on a regular basis to a 20 minute tape comprised of relaxation and visualization messages and music. After six weeks, their blood tests showed a uniform increase in the specific blood cells they were asked to visualize increasing.

Although there was no correlation reported between this study and AIDS or HIV infection, this study would suggest that relaxation and visualization could be a help to people with AIDS or ARC in increasing depleted T-Helper Cells.

INSURANCE FIRMS INCREASE AIDS TEST EFFORTS

Insurance companies are calling for expanded testing for signs of a weakened immune system. In California, as in some other states, state law forbids insurance companies from using the Elisa and Western Blot tests in determining insurability. However, many companies are now calling for other kinds of tests, such as the T-Cell count and the B-2 Microglobulin test, to determine the state of the immune system before granting health, life, and disability policies and coverage.

The Health Insurance Association of America has estimated that the AIDS epidemic will cost \$100 billion in claims over the next 15 years. The insurers claim that uninfected policyholders will have to subsidize infected policyholders, and everyone will have to pay much higher rates.

Public health systems will experience a much greater strain as a result of so many people being unable to purchase insurance. Some critics state that the insurance industry has exaggerated the potential cost of AIDS to their companies.

In spite of state laws across the U.S., all major life and disability insurers now call for the HIV antibody test or other tests of the immune system, and if a person refuses, they may get less coverage or no coverage at all.

TEST TUBE EXPERIMENT HAILED AS BREAKTHROUGH

In test tube experiments, CD4, a synthesized protein, has been shown to inhibit the ability of the AIDS virus to bind with healthy immune system cells. Scientists from four major research institutions have independently confirmed these results. The findings, published in the British science journal NATURE, were researched by Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Biogen Research Corp., both of Boston, Smith Kline & French Corp. of Pennsylvania, and the Basel Institute of Immunology in Switzerland.

It is hoped that the protein can be used in creating a drug that would prevent the HIV virus from damaging infected people's immune systems.

HIV+ WOMEN MORE LIKELY TO CONCEIVE TWINS

The Center for Disease Control's AIDS Weekly reports that women who are HIV+ and become pregnant are eight times as likely to bear twins as uninfected women. The study was conducted in New York City by Dr. Louis Cooper of Columbia Univ., who also reports that when twins are born to HIV+ women, one baby usually has the virus, while the other does not.

LATEX CONDOMS SAFER

Dr. Marcus Conant, a San Francisco researcher, has stated that the type of condom used can make a difference in protecting a person from HIV infection. Laboratory studies show that HIV will not pass through a latex condom, while natural membrane or skin condoms are riskier because of the pores in the condoms that allow the virus to pass through.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration stresses that even with a latex condom, they must be used properly and must not be torn in order to be effective. The FDA recently tested over 54,000 latex condoms, representing a large variety of brands, and found that 20% failed to meet FDA standards.

However, Conant stresses that latex is a much surer safeguard than any other kind of condom.

SF INTERFAITH AIDS CONFERENCE PUBLISHES REPORT

(MCC-SF Pastor Published in Report)

"The Proceedings of the Interfaith Conference on AIDS and ARC", which took place in San Francisco in March of 1987, have been privately published. The conference itself which drew 500 participants, was directed primarily towards people in the religious communities of the San Francisco Bay Area who attended or counseled People with AIDS and ARC.

Sessions included "The Spirituality of Suffering," and "Death and Life Transition" - from the perspectives of various traditional and non-traditional faiths. The final plenary, "Towards a Theology of AIDS" featured presentations by an Episcopal Canon, a Franciscan Ethicist, a Baptist Civil Rights Leader, a prominent Rabbi, and a founder of a Gay Zen Monastery in San Francisco. Thirty additional workshops encompassed spiritual and practical issues. All talks were recorded, transcribed, and edited. The result is 248 pages of material.

One of the major papers published in this volume was written and presented by the Rev. Jim Mitulski, Pastor of MCC San Francisco.

The editors are looking for a major house to republish "The Proceedings of the Interfaith Conference on AIDS and ARC", and to have the volume distributed in bookstores. But for now, the volume is only available by mail order. The cost is \$10 postpaid in the U.S. and possessions. Checks are made payable to "Weston F. Milliken, Editor", c/o The Parsonage, 555 A Castro St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Please allow four weeks for delivery. For those outside the U.S., write to Mr. Milliken at the above address for postage rates.

AIDS IN AUSTRALIA

by Rev. Jim N. Dykes

-- Many bright people think AIDS is due to something the gay community has done. That is not true. The risk factors are there, but unless a new organism comes along that can thrive under these conditions, there will be no new disease. I remember back in the 1920s hyacinths were introduced into the waterways of Florida. The conditions had always been right for proliferation of hyacinths. But until the flower was introduced, well, they just didn't grow.

*Dr. Marcus Conant
University of California
San Francisco*

The AIDS epidemic has taken a somewhat different course in Australia. There are several factors to explain this difference. First, we have had time to set up medical, physical, and emotional/spiritual support systems. It was clear that with the large amount of travel between the Gay community in Australia and the United States, it was only a matter of time until the HIV arrived in Australia.

-- At the end of December, 1983, Kevin, a slight, 29 year-old man, was admitted to St. Vincent's Hospital. He had been feeling unwell for almost 12 months. ..He had first been to St. Vincent's Hospital in October '83 because his lymph glands had stayed swollen for weeks at a time, and his weight had dropped by more than 3 kilograms. Kevin said that he never traveled outside Australia and that he was bisexual, having had six sexual contacts in the previous four years. The most recent had been a steady heterosexual relationship that had lasted for more than a year. After Kevin was confirmed to have AIDS in December, his contacts agreed to be investigated. The source of the virus was traced to a sexual relationship he had had back in 1980 with John, a man who had flown regularly to San Francisco...When tested John was found to have traces of the AIDS virus.

*Dr. Julian Gold
AIDS AND AUSTRALIA*

By the beginning of January, 1984, there were still only seven confirmed cases of AIDS in the country and it had taken 12 months to reach this number of cases. The number of cases has continued to rise and as of 7 December 1987, 681 cases have been reported in Australia.

The next steps taken by the Australia government were the beginning of a different approach to this disease from that found in the United States. Dr. Neil Blewett, the Federal Minister for Health, toured both the United States and Europe on a fact-finding mission for the government. On his return to Australia meetings were arranged between the Gay Community and medical officials from the Department of Health. These productive meetings began to lay out a program that would include the Gay Community in all levels of government dealing with the HIV.

The second difference in the U.S. and Australian response to the AIDS epidemic is that in Australia medical treatment is viewed as a basic human right. All residents of Australia are provided with free medical care. This includes the drug AZT.

Metropolitan Community Church of Sydney and Melbourne have been involved in the AIDS epidemic since 1984. Lindsey Bull, the Pastoral Leader of the Melbourne congregation, has led that church body into the mainstream of support services for People with AIDS.

Rev. J.W.A. Hein, UFMCC District Coordinator of Australia, works in the Federal Department of Community Services and Health. This department deals with such AIDS-related matters as awareness promotion, funding, and administration to all States. Each State then has its own AIDS Council which is made up of professionals as well as representation from the gay community. (The professionals are invariably openly gay, Rev. Hein reports.) Each State determines needs to be fulfilled, such as home care and counseling services.

Rev. Hein writes, "In Adelaide, the Catholic Archbishop has ensured that there will be beds for PWA's in the hospices run by that Church. Hospitalization is free in any public hospital, and we have separate foundations in each State that raise money for personal needs not covered by Social Security. We pay for national social security within our pay structure and therefore, when someone goes on sickness benefit with AIDS-related conditions, it is not considered as demeaning as the U.S. welfare process, because we have a right to our benefits, and in most cases have paid towards the national system. My own department has made available in recent months, brochures to all civil servants on AIDS, how to use condoms and safe sex guidelines. In addition, advertising in all magazines, and brochures in all public areas such as employment and social security offices are free and prominently displayed. A "Condoman" poster is now out for use in the Black community."

[See copy of poster on reverse side]

AIDS IN AUSTRALIA (cont'd)

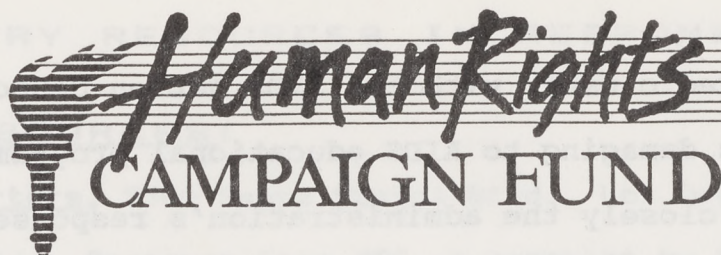
The first organization using volunteers to provide practical support to People with AIDS was Community Support Network (CSN). CSN began as a sharing/caring group of Metropolitan Community Church of Sydney. CSN is able to supply 24-hour practical care for clients who prefer to die at home. This 24-hour care takes the form of basic nursing care: bathing, feeding, administering pain relief.

The volunteers work six hour shifts in the home, some working two or three shifts with the same client per week. CSN has trained 350 volunteers. The founder of CSN is Deacon Peter McCarthy of MCC-Sydney. CSN is government funded through the AIDS Council of New South Wales.

Once the practical needs of People with AIDS was being met, I began working to insure that the emotional/-spiritual needs of the community were also given support. The ANKALI PROJECT (ANKALI is Aboriginal for "friend") provides emotional/spiritual support services to Persons with AIDS, their lovers, friends, and families, and to those grieving the death of someone with AIDS. Services are provided wherever they are needed -- in the home, hospital, or other care facility. The project is based on the work of Drs. Charles Garfield and Elisabeth Kubler-Ross. Shanti Project in San Francisco was used as a model. I now work as full-time pastor of MCC-Sydney and as coordinator of the ANKALI PROJECT. We have trained 150 volunteers and provided services for 160 clients. This is about 1/3 of the AIDS population of NSW.

Metropolitan Community Church of Sydney has been recognized by both State and federal government for the bold steps it has taken to provide service in this epidemic. We pray that as the number of cases increase in Australia that we will continue to "be there" on the front line of services to our sisters and brothers.





FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 22, 1987 (Washington, DC) -- The Human Rights Campaign Fund declared a victory today on behalf of the gay community as the Continuing Resolutions Committee for the Budget Bill dealt favorably with four resolutions directly related to Gay issues.

The Conferees accepted a change in the language of the Helms Amendment to the Labor and Health and Human Services Appropriations Bill. The amendment now reads that federal funding will be withheld from AIDS programs for educational material that "promotes or encourages directly homosexual, sexual activity." The new language, introduced by Steny Hoyer (D-MD), ensures that funding for AIDS educational programs aimed at the gay community will not be blocked by Congress.

Steve Smith, legislative counsel for HRCF, said, "Congress' intent is now clear. The government is willing to assist organizations within the gay community in providing accurate and effective AIDS educational materials targeted at the gay community."

"There is no question in my mind that the Campaign Fund's nationwide ad campaign to bring attention to this issue has made a difference" said Vic Basile, Executive Director.

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The HRCF worked closely with the AIDS Action Council to make the amendment less damaging to AIDS educational programs. The HRCF will monitor closely the administration's response to the new language changes to ensure that such actions are carried out, Smith said.

Conferees also deleted the Helms amendment to repeal an existing District law which prohibits the use of HIV testing to determine eligibility for insurance coverage.

The Campaign Fund was successful in its efforts to have the Conference Committee adopt two resolutions concerning federal management which could well make a major difference in the time needed to initiate AIDS research projects.

The first resolution will require the Office of Personnel Management and General Services to respond to "priority" requests from the directors of the National Institutes of Allergies and Infectious Diseases and the Centers for Disease Control within 21 days. Additionally, it was resolved that the National Institutes of Health will have six months to review grants, contracts and cooperative agreements before they make a decision to award funds or not.

"These actions, together with the appropriation of \$906,459,000, for Fiscal Year 1988 for federal AIDS programs, more than double last year's appropriation, are critical steps in the effort to speed up research and ensure that services and education go forward", said Basile. "I think Congress finally recognizes the rapid growth of the AIDS crisis and is ready to increase spending accordingly. We expect them to do even more when they return to Washington in 1988."

MINISTRY RESOURCES IN RESPONSE TO AIDS

UFMCC RESOURCES:

UFMCC Headquarters, 5300 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90029

AIDS: A Christian Response From MCC, a pamphlet by Stephen Pieters. Single copies are \$.25 US.

AIDS: A Present Crisis/A Present Grace, a 60 minute video tape featuring Stephen Pieters, produced by MetroComm Christian Video Outreach of MCC in the Valley. Cost is \$39.95 US (includes shipping).

AIDS: Is It God's Judgment?, a pamphlet by UFMCC Commission on Faith, Fellowship, and Order. Single copies are \$.25 US.

ALERT, a monthly bulletin of news on AIDS legislation, education, research, and treatment.

FFO (UFMCC Commission on Faith, Fellowship, and Order)
Order from Office of Ministry Resources, P.O. Box 14529, Hartford, CT 06114. All prices include shipping charges.

Do Not Fear, Only Believe: A Christian Response to AIDS is a six-week study series. The six sessions include: "Moving Beyond Our Fear", "Moving Beyond Our Homophobia", "Does God Cause Suffering?", "Is Sin Punished With Disease?", "Grieving as Healing", and "What Is Our Response?" Cost is \$5 US.

Is AIDS God's Judgment? is a 12-page statement that was the basis for the above brochure. Cost is \$3 US.

AIDS: Two-Part Sermon Series is the outline for two sermons given by Jennie Boyd Bull at MCC Baltimore in 1983. Cost is \$1 US.

Office of Ministry Resources, P.O. Box 14529, Hartford, CT 06114.
All prices include shipping charges.

From Brokenness to Wholeness: A Service of Healing In Response to AIDS is a complete ecumenical worship service held in Hartford, Connecticut in March 1986. Cost is \$3 US.

Pray As If Your Life Depended On It is a cassette tape of a sermon on prayer and AIDS, preached at MCC Hartford, September 1986, by Jeffrey Pulling. The sermon explores the questions: Why pray to the God who allowed this horrible disease to afflict us? Why pray to God? Why pray? Cost of the tape is \$6 US.

Local MCC Congregations

MCC Baltimore has printed copies available of a January 1987 inter-faith worship service, *A Service of Help, Healing, & Hope in the AIDS Crisis*, sponsored by the AIDS Interfaith Network of Baltimore. For a single copy, send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to MCC Baltimore, P.O. Box 1145, Baltimore, MD 21203.

MINISTRY RESOURCES IN RESPONSE TO AIDS (page 2)

MCC Philadelphia (PO Box 8174, Philadelphia, PA 19101) has:

- A complete ecumenical worship service, *AIDS Interfaith Service of Prayer and Healing*, held June 1986. One copy free with self-addressed, stamped envelope.
- A videotape with Third World speakers, *AIDS: It's Not Just Somebody Else's Business*. Cost is \$50 US.

MCC Pittsburgh (PO Box 19155, Pittsburgh, PA 15213) has two complete worship bulletins for an AIDS Vigil of Prayer held in September 1986. Cost is \$3 US.

MCC San Diego (PO Box 33291, San Diego, CA 92103) has *AIDS Vigil of Prayer*, a 30 minute video documentary of a 50 hour ecumenical prayer vigil held in San Diego. Study packet included. Cost is \$30 US.

OTHER CHRISTIAN RESOURCES:

Flynn, Eileen, *AIDS: A Catholic Call to Compassion*, Sheed and Ward (115 E. Armour Blvd., Kansas City, MO 64141), 1986. Cost is \$4.95 US.

Flynn, who teaches medical ethics at St. Peter's College in New Jersey, calls upon Christians to understand the facts about AIDS and to respond with compassion. She articulates well what is currently known about the disease and how society and churches might appropriately respond. She also deals with homophobia and how Catholic teaching has contributed to the problem.

Fortunato, John, *AIDS, The Spiritual Dilemma*, Harper and Row (Icehouse One-401, 151 Union St., San Francisco, CA 94111-1299), 1987. Cost is \$7.95 US.

Fortunato is a counselor who has worked extensively with persons with AIDS and is the author of the book *Embracing the Exile*. He writes not only for PWA's but also for their family, friends, and clergy who counsel them. He addresses the spiritual dilemma of this disease and stresses the importance of a spiritual response and spiritual journey.

Shelp, Earl and Ronald Sunderland

AIDS and the Church, Westminster Press (925 Chestnut St., Philadelphia, PA 19107), 1987. Cost is \$8.95 US.

Institute of Religion (Houston, Texas) faculty members Shelp and Sunderland show how churches can respond to this epidemic and minister to those with AIDS.

AIDS, A Manual for Pastoral Care, Westminster Press (925 Chestnut St., Philadelphia, PA 19107), 1987. Cost is \$6.95 US.

Sunderland and Shelp designed this practical manual for chaplains, pastors, and caregivers who engage in a ministry with PWA's and their families and friends.

AIDS: Personal Stories in Pastoral Perspective, Pilgrim Press (132 West 31st St., New York, NY 10001). Cost is \$7.95 US.

Shelp, Sunderland, and Peter Mansell, M.D., call churches to meet their obligation to provide redemptive and compassionate ministry in the crises generated by AIDS. They tell several stories about PWA's, family members, lovers, and medical personnel to illustrate the suffering associated with AIDS and the need for ministry.

AAC BRIEFS PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES

The AIDS Action Council has provided each presidential candidate with their document, The HIV Epidemic: A Plan for the Future, in order to educate the candidates on AIDS-related issues. AAC staff are scheduling meetings with each candidate, to assist them in devising rational AIDS policy initiatives.

Ann McFarren, Executive Director of the AIDS Action Council, is leading a media tour of Iowa prior to the state Presidential Caucuses, in order to raise consciousness and concern for AIDS issues in the Presidential race.

Community based organizations can order the document for \$12 plus postage and handling from the AIDS Action Council.

JAMA REPORT SAYS "NO LABELING"

The December 18, 1987 Journal of the American Medical Association reports that using biohazard labels on blood samples may actually increase the risk of health care workers' exposure to HIV and Hepatitis B. The absence of a biohazard label does not guarantee in any way that the blood sample is free of Hepatitis B Virus or HIV. Since labels only give a false sense of security when handling unlabeled samples, the authors state their recommendation that "biohazard labeling not be employed to denote specimens from patients with Hepatitis B Virus or HIV infection in hospitals or other clinical settings."

The study by H. Hunter Handsfield, MD and colleagues at the University of Washington School of Medicine in Seattle, states that one-third of HIV-positive blood samples submitted to the hospital's clinical chemistry laboratory were not labeled as biohazardous. Seventy-two percent of blood samples from patients with Hepatitis B were not labelled.

The study suggests that "all clinical and laboratory personnel should handle all blood specimens as if they were infected, regardless of biohazard labeling." This would be accomplished if no labels were used. They also suggest vaccination against Hepatitis B for all health workers who handle blood specimens.

GROUP W OFFERS AIDS INFO

Group W television stations are introducing AIDS LIFELINE, an effort to offer on-going education about AIDS starting in January, 1988. In addition to new reports, public service announcements, editorials, and special programs, there will be four primetime specials on AIDS in 1988. They will be 1) AIDS 101--a primer; 2) Heterosexuals and AIDS; 3) AIDS Healthcare and Treatment; and 4) How to Talk to your Kids About AIDS. The education campaign will be syndicated nationwide, and fees generated will be donated to AIDS service organizations. Group W officials hope to give away over \$1 million through this effort.

HIV FOUND IN THE RETINA

Researchers at Massachusetts General Hospital have discovered HIV in the retina, the membrane which lines the inner eyeball.

"HIV infection of the retina may actually be the initial step in the development of CMV and other AIDS-related infections of the eye. There has also been a lot of speculation as to what might cause the cotton-wool spots (dead retinal tissue) which often occur in patients with AIDS, and a variety of vascular changes that can go on to blindness," states the principle investigator, Roger J. Pomerantz, MD, in the December 31, 1987 AIDS RECORD, (Vol 2, No. 2).

The study was published in the December 24 New England Journal of Medicine, and did not address the issue of transmission of HIV through the eye. Although HIV has been detected in the tears of some persons with AIDS, as well as in mucous membranes and corneas, this is the first time it has been isolated in the retina. The virus is not transmitted through tears, but because it is found in the tissue of the eye, the researchers stress that persons with AIDS should not be donating tissue of any sort.

TITLE X CLINICS TO OFFER HIV EDUCATION

Stating that the characteristics of Title X Clinic clients "closely resemble those of the population of women thought to be at highest risk for AIDS and HIV infection," the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Population Affairs, Nabers Cabaniss has directed all Title X Clinics to offer HIV education, prevention counseling, and referral services for persons affected by AIDS.

Title X Clinics offer family planning services to 4.3 million sexually active women per year. Many clients are from minority populations and 85% are from low-income families.

Although other resources are to be sought out, according to the memo, the Assistant Secretary approved use of Title X funds for AIDS education.

GMHC PUBLISHES TREATMENT ISSUES

New York City's Gay Men's Health Crisis has begun to publish a free monthly newsletter, called Treatment Issues, designed to explore experimental and alternative therapies for AIDS. Articles will be written in easy-to-understand language, and footnotes will list pertinent studies and references for further reading. Dr. Barry Gingell of GMHC is the editor. If you wish to receive Treatment Issues free of charge, write: GMHC, Department of Medical Information, Box 274, 132 West 24th Street, New York, NY 10011.

AIDS INSTITUTE PLANNED

John Hopkins University has announced plans for the John Hopkins AIDS Institute. The Institute will include an expanded 20-bed unit for AIDS inpatients at John Hopkins Hospital, more laboratories for AIDS research, as well as a long-term care facility and hospice. The location for these projects has yet to be determined.

The John Hopkins Medical Institutions have the largest budget of any U.S. academic medical center. They currently receive \$42 million in AIDS research grants, with an additional \$40 million in pending grants. Most of these grants are from the US federal government.

AIDS IN THE SONORA DESERT

The Rev. Bernardo David, pastor of Iglesia de la Comunidad Metropolitana Cristo Obrero, reports that his church is responding to AIDS in the Sonora Desert of Mexico, but needs help, not only in financial assistance, but also in translating much needed educational pamphlets.

Their "Proyecto Acepta SIDA" provides AIDS information, safe sex guidelines, and spiritual direction in facing AIDS. The telephone in Nogales, Sonora is 2-04-11, and both Spanish and English are spoken.

Rev. David writes, "Our main goal is to connect with people who are HIV positive, or have ARC or AIDS, to assess their individual situations and then provide them with the proper support, such as medication, food supplements, emotional support, personal and home health care and social needs. The housing situation in Nogales Sonora is dreadful. It is very, very cold, and well people are dying. The head of the Public Health Department will have nothing whatsoever to do with us. However, the Administrator of the Hospital Municipal will advise us of any patients admitted, and has a fund called Fondo San Lucas to provide indigent patients with discharge medications, until he can refer them to us."

Much of the financial support for this work comes from the Southwest District of UFMCC, and several churches around the Fellowship, including Cristo Rey ICM in New York City. But Rev. David indicates that more help is needed, both in finances and resources.

The Nogales church is working on translating the UFMCC Faith Fellowship and Order pamphlet, "AIDS: Is It God's Judgment?" There is a need for more pamphlets in Spanish, and Rev. David is looking particularly for copies of "Podemos Hablar" ("Can We Talk?").

If you or your church can help ICM Cristo Obrero respond to AIDS in the Sonora Desert, contact Rev. David at AP No. 232, Nogales, Sonora, Mexico; or PO Box 2903, Tucson, AZ at (602) 624-8778.

CDC YEAR-END REPORT

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) reported 49,743 AIDS cases in states and US territories, as of Dec. 28, 1987. This figure reflects the newly expanded CDC definition of AIDS; 2700 patients were added as a result of the revised definition.

Of the 49,743 diagnosed AIDS patients in the U.S., 25% are Black, 14% are Hispanic, and 1% are Asian, Native American or of unknown racial group. Gay and bisexual men account for 65% of all AIDS cases, 17% are IV drug abusers and 8% are both Gay and IV drug abusers. Hemophiliacs account for 1%, transfusion cases represent 2% of all cases, and 4%, or 1,964 cases are a result of heterosexual transmission. Patients for whom risk information is incomplete, as well as men who only had heterosexual contact with a prostitute account for 3% of all cases.

The top five states in prevalence of AIDS cases are (in order) New York (13,171), California (10,954), Florida (3,623), Texas (3,465), and New Jersey (3,143). The metropolitan areas reporting the largest number of AIDS cases include New York City (11,961), San Francisco (4,433), Los Angeles (4,072), Houston (1,654) and Washington, DC (1,541).

BOOKLET: LEGAL PROBLEMS OF AIDS

The booklet entitled "Living With AIDS: A Guide to the Legal Problems of People With AIDS", is Lambda's first publication on AIDS written for the general reader rather than lawyers. Its twelve chapters cover such topics as access to medical services, the confidentiality of medical records, insurance, financial aid, housing, employment, and education. The last chapter, "Where to Go For Help," lists more than sixty organizations, agencies, and groups in New York State providing AIDS-related assistance and referral services.

The appearance of "Living With AIDS" brings to three the number of publications offered by Lambda on the subject of AIDS. It joins the newly revised and expanded edition of the AIDS Legal Guide, edited by Lambda's Legal Director, Abby R. Rubinfeld, and the monthly newsletter, AIDS Update.

"Living With AIDS" was written by Trudy Hayden, a specialist on privacy and discrimination issues, and was funded in part by a grant from New York State's AIDS Institute.

"Living With AIDS" is available at \$3.95 per copy, including postage, directly from Lambda at 666 Broadway, New York, NY 10012. Bulk rates are available upon request.